to Britain was by no means uncommon in those earlier days. Civil servants were not afraid to strike out a line for themselves and even to criticise the Administration. In 1830 there was a proposal to navigate the River Indus and Sir Charles Metcalfe condemned it in the strongest terms:

> It seems mere wantonness to vex and alarm our neighbours by surveying their lands and rivers by deceit or force without their consent. . . . The scheme of surveying the Indus under the pretence of sending a present to Maharaja Ranjit Singh seems to me highly objectionable. It is a trick in my opinion unworthy of our Government which cannot fail, when detected, as most probably it will be, to excite the jealousy and indignation of the powers on whom we play it.

Metcalfe's view did not prevail, but the fact that from a subordinate position he was able to criticise a proposal emanating from a high authority proves that there was less regimentation of opinion and uniformity than to-day. None will deny that reactionary policies were pursued, but there were always some who felt free to criticise them. Sir Frederick Halliday attacked the system of combining prosecuting and judicial powers in the same hands as affecting the "fair distribution of justice. . . . So long as it lasts, public confidence in our criminal tribunals must always be liable to injury, and the authority of justice itself must often be abused and misapplied."

Mr. Bool Chand, in an article in *Modern Review* for February, 1938, to which I am indebted, remarks that the administrative discussions of the period breathe a sense of responsibility and have a ^parliamentary ring about them. Officials do not seem to have suffered in their promotions for having adopted a critical attitude to the Government. Government reports and minutes do not give the impression of having been incubated in the same metal frame, but